

LIGHT-HOUSE BOARD—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
FOR OIL.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An additional estimate for oil for the Light-house Board.

FEBRUARY 6, 1855.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
February 3, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter addressed to this department by the chairman of the Light-house Board, by which it will be perceived that, upon making a contract on the 2d instant, for the oil required for the year, a deficiency of \$82,034 17 is found in the sum contained in the printed estimates compared with the sum which, according to the prices of that contract, will be required.

In order to meet this deficiency, I respectfully recommend that the above-mentioned sum be added to the amount heretofore estimated, viz: \$192,673 33, making the amount to be appropriated for the supplies of oil the sum of two hundred and seventy-four thousand seven hundred and seven dollars and fifty cents.

I am, very respectfully,

JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. LINN BOYD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Office Light-house Board, February 3, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of this board, respectfully to report that, in consequence of the great advance in the price of sperm oil, there will be a deficiency of \$82,034 17, in the appropriation for the current fiscal year, on account of the item of "supplies of oil" for

light-houses; being the difference between the estimated cost of \$1 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ per gallon, (page 87, A and A *bis*, estimates for fiscal year ending June 30, 1855,) and the actual cost, as will be seen by reference to the table hereto appended, after deducting 14,155 gallons of oil saved by the introduction of lens apparatus and renovations of lights generally during the current year.

It is respectfully recommended that the sum necessary to meet this deficiency may be asked of Congress to be incorporated in the civil and diplomatic bill, under the head of "light-house establishment," in the following words:

"To supply the deficiency in the appropriation for oil for light-houses for the current fiscal year, being the difference between the estimated and the actual cost of that article, eighty-two thousand and thirty-four dollars and seventeen cents, (\$82,034 17.")

The following statement, taken from the printed estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1855, page 87, A and A *bis*, and the quantities and prices contracted for, will fully explain the necessity for the additional appropriation:

Printed estimates—1853-'55.

Table A, page 87.....	134,155 gallons, at \$1 33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Table A <i>bis</i> , page 87	10,500 " 1 33 $\frac{1}{2}$
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Aggregate quantity estimated	144,655 gallons.
Quantity saved during the year.....	14,155 "
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Leaving (actual quantity required)	130,500 "
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Procured by public advertisement.

Contract with Samuel Leonard & Son, of New Bedford, November, 1854, for the southern and gulf coast, 16,000 gallons spring oil, at \$1 58 per gallon, (excess per gallon over estimate, 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents).....	\$4,106 67
Accepted bids of C. H. Leonard, of New York, February 2, 1855, for Atlantic coast—east—40,000 gallons winter oil, at \$2 01 per gallon, (being excess over estimate of 67 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per gallon).....	27,066 67
50,000 gallons spring oil, at \$1 98 per gallon, (being excess over estimate of 64 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per gallon).....	32,333 33

For the Lakes.

7,950 gallons winter oil, at \$2 15 per gallon, (being excess over estimate of 81 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents).....	6,492 50
7,950 gallons spring oil, at \$2 10 per gallon, (being excess over estimate of \$76 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents per gallon).....	6,115 00
8,600 gallons to be contracted for to complete supplies for current fiscal year at present rates, (excess over estimates about 70 cents per gallon).....	6,020 00

Aggregate amount of deficiency	82,034 17
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Recapitulation.

Aggregate quantity of oil estimated for	144,655 gallons.
Aggregate quantity of oil actually required.....	130,500 “
Average estimated cost October 29, 1853.....	\$1 33½ per gal.
Average actual cost by public contract.....	1 96 “
Or an average excess of cost over estimates of 62 $\frac{87}{100}$	cents per gallon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. SHUBRICK,
Chairman of Light-house Board.

THORNTON A. JENKINS,
Naval Secretary of Light-house Board.

HON. JAMES GUTHRIE,
Secretary of the Treasury.

